

ON TWO HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED FISHES WELL-KNOWN IN THE
SYDNEY MARKET.

BY WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S., &c.,

The enquiry now being conducted by the Fisheries Commission of which I am a member, has revealed the rather remarkable fact that two of the best known and most highly prized of the marketable fishes of these seas, have hitherto entirely escaped the notice of Ichthyologists. They are :

1. OTOLITHUS TERAGLIN.

D. 10 $\frac{1}{30}$ -32. A. $\frac{1}{8}$. L. lat. 70.

Height of body nearly one-fifth of total length, length of head one-fourth of the same. Lower jaw slightly longer than upper, maxillary extending to behind the vertical from the posterior margin of the orbit. Teeth acute and slightly recurved, but without canines or larger teeth. Eye large, one-eighth of the length of the head, and distant about two diameters from the point of the snout. Præoperculum rounded at the angle, and distantly denticulated. Pectoral fins pointed, and more than half the length of the head, with a large skinny flap in the upper part of the axil. Soft dorsal with a scaly sheath at base; caudal fin broad and slightly emarginate. Colour bluish-silvery, lighter on the belly; all the fins of a dark tinge excepting the ventrals, which are white with the space between the first and second rays black.

This fish is abundant on our coasts, and attains a very considerable size—three or four feet in length. It is known to the fishermen as the “Teraglin,” and I have made that its specific name. It belongs like the “Jew Fish” *Sciæna antarctica*, of Castelnau, to the *Scianidæ*, a family said by Dr. Gunther to be unknown in Australia.

2. SYNAPTURA NIGRA.

D. 57. A. 47. C. 14. L. lat. 77 on the body.

Height with fins, two-thirds of total length. Mouth about equally developed on both sides, with numerous short cutaneous filaments, extending on the blind side over a large portion of the head. The upper eye very slightly in advance of the lower, and about two diameters of the orbit apart from it. The pectoral fin on the right side a little less than one-third of the length of the head, that on the left side a little smaller. Scales firm and hard their apices glassy-looking and armed with seven or eight acute points, on the right side; those on the blind side of the same form and size, but not so strongly armed, and of an uniform yellowish-white. The colour on the right side is black, the glassy-looking apex of the scales giving it a greyish hue, the left side is entirely yellowish-white. The vertical fins are tipped with white.

This is the best of our Flat Fish. It is generally called the "Sole," (though that name is often given to other species of the *Pleuronectidæ*) and is abundant at the proper season in Botany Bay at the mouth of Cook's River. It is also found in Port Jackson. The average size of an adult fish is about 10 inches in length, by six in height.

 NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

J. Brazier, Esq., C.M.Z.S. etc., exhibited five proof sheets of *Brachiopoda*, from the new species obtained by H. M. S. "Challenger." Also "The Zoology of the "Magenta"."

Mr. Masters exhibited specimens of *Puffinus gavius* and *Arses telescopthalmus*; both new to the Australian Fauna, and a Monkey from Borneo, (*Nasicus larvatus*) sent to the Hon. W. Macleay by Count de Lansberge, Governor General of Netherlands India.

Mr. Palmer exhibited some palms and other plants brought from Lord Howe's Island by Mr. Armstrong.